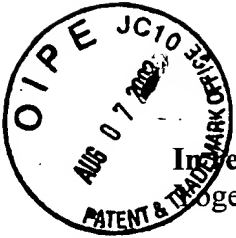


#9/A
#8-02
RECEIVED
AUG 18 2002
Done



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

In the patent application of:
Rogesh Sanghvi et al.

Serial No.: 09/438,989

Group No.: 1623

Filed: November 12, 1999

Examiner: H. Owens

For: **GAPPED OLIGOMERS HAVING SPECIFIC CHIRAL
PHOSPHOROTHIOATE INTERNUCLEOSIDE LINKAGES**

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL928560146US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: August 7, 2002

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

This responds to the Office Action mailed on May 8, 2002 ("the Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered. In view of the Amendments and remarks to follow, Applicants request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 5, with the following replacement paragraph:

A¹ This patent application is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 09/352,058, filed on July 14, 1999, entitled "Oligonucleotides Having Site Specific Chiral Phosphorothioate Internucleoside Linkages", the contents of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. A